

**Public Notice and Opportunity to Comment on Application for  
School Improvement Grant Funds  
Under Section 1003(g) of the  
*Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)***

The Virginia Department of Education will submit to the U.S. Department of Education an application for School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2012, as appropriated under Section 1003(g) of ESEA. The application includes a request for certain waivers of state and school division requirements. The requested waivers will increase the state's ability to implement the SIG program effectively in eligible schools to improve the quality of instruction and raise the academic achievement of students in schools receiving SIG funds. The following waivers will be requested:

**Priority Schools List Waiver**

- To enable the state to replace its lists of Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools with its list of Priority schools as defined under ESEA flexibility, the state requests a waiver from the school eligibility requirements in Section I.A.1 of the SIG final requirements. The state assures that, through its request for ESEA flexibility, its priority school definition provides an acceptable alternative set of criteria for identifying the state's persistently lowest-achieving (PLA) schools and thus is an appropriate replacement for the eligibility requirements and definition of PLA schools in the SIG final requirements.

**School Improvement Timeline Waiver**

- The state requests a waiver from Section 1116(b)(12) of the ESEA to permit school divisions to allow their Priority or Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III Title I participating schools that will fully implement a turnaround or restart model beginning in the 2013–2014 school year to “start over” in the school improvement timeline. The state assures that it will permit a school division to implement this waiver only if the school division receives a School Improvement Grant and requests the waiver in its application as part of a plan to implement the turnaround or restart model beginning in 2013–2014 in a school that the state has approved it to serve. As such, the school division may only implement the waiver in Priority or Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools, as applicable, included in its application.

**Schoolwide Program Waiver**

- The state requests a waiver from the 40 percent poverty eligibility threshold in Section 1114(a)(1) of the ESEA to permit school divisions to implement a schoolwide program in a Priority, Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III Title I participating school that does not meet the poverty threshold and is fully implementing one of the four school intervention models. The state assures that it will permit a school division to implement this waiver only if the school division receives a School Improvement Grant and requests to implement the waiver in its application. As such, the school division may only implement the waiver in Priority or Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools, as applicable, included in its application.

In submitting the request for these waivers to USED, the state must provide notice to the public of the request and an opportunity to provide comment. Comments related to the waiver requests will be accepted by e-mail at [ESEA@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:ESEA@doe.virginia.gov) until Friday, January 25, 2013. Questions regarding the request of the waivers should be directed to Ms. Veronica Tate, director, Office of Program Administration and Accountability, at [Veronica.Tate@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Veronica.Tate@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2869.